Passion Romance

HARLEQUIN

Cowboys, Babies and Shotgun Vows

Original Text by Shirley Rogers

Yoshiko Hanatsu

I might sound big-headed,
but I have never had trouble getting women
Come on, hon
Women should pursue me
I'll treat you good.
I don't have to go chasing after them.
Tap
Tap
Tap
Let's have fun, huh?
Hey!
try to seduce a woman
I never thought I would ever...

What do you want with my girl, old man?

Cowboys, Babies and Shotgun Vows

Yoshiko Hanatsu

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Anyway, lady, being in a bar like this on your own... is like asking to be picked up.
That was close.
You should get... home...
!!
What a... beauty!
Er... So...
I could walk you home...

Sleeping
MOTEL
FAMILY REUNIONS WELCOME
?
...
What!
I'm going to hurl
Wait!
Wait, wait, wait!
オエエエエエエ
Urrrggghh
Ahhhh!
Splash

Just my luck
Flush
Splash
Sigh
Splash
Don't worry about it. Let it all out. You'll feel better
Ha
Sedatives
She took these?
And she was drinking
Is she trying to kill herself?

What's up?
!
Squeeze
Touch
...Please don't leave me alone...

Stay with me here forever?
Um... Okay...
You'll stay by my side?
Forever?
Er...
Is she proposing to me?
No calm down
I'm Texas's no. 1 bachelor. Why am I getting flustered by this weird girl?
I don't even know her and she's drunk
and taking drugs...
Drink and drugs
Something terrible must have happened to her. Poor thing...

Of course I'll stay.
I won't leave you alone.
Hey. Cut it out. .
!
Squeeze

Grab
I've always been so good with women, but this one...
She's affecting me...?
I'll take this the wrong way...
Nod
Slump
Why does she make me feel this way?

You're sure you want this?
Um...
Ashley...
I'm Ryder.
Ryder McCall
I'll be gentle, Ashley...
She smells sweet...

I'm so stupid, getting involved with this hopeless drunk.

Getting my shirt ruined.

Really stupid...

But I can't just leave her.

When she says things like that with those eyes

I'll stay by your side
"Please don't leave me alone"
My sweet Ashley

Ash-
ley?
Man
Ashley?
Jump
Ashley!
Where did
she go?
Ashley!

You're the one who asked me to stay Ashley!
Is this a joke?
I wake up and the girl is gone? This is like a B movie plot
I can still feel her...
"Ryder..."
And her scent
Clench
She was just a one-night stand...
I'll forget about her...

Yeah, I'll forget all about her!
McCall Farm
Dieck McCall
Hey
Hey, Ryder.
Lyn McCall
Morn-ing!
Morn-ing
Jake McCall

What a great morning!
Thanks, Mom and Dad in heaven!
What the –
That crispy bacon looks good!
Hey, Lyn!
Hey, Dieck! Handsome as ever, my man!
I'm wearing the same shirt as yesterday –
It's burned.
He's been like that since he got back last night
Jake, do something. What's with Ryler?
Maybe he met a girl.

ビクッ
Flinch
I was right!
Yeah
Ryder's new crush
Fix the post before lunch.
Ryder
Oh, God, please let this new girl really love Ryder. Not like Ariel, who left him for that rich old guy. Ryder pretends to be a playboy but he's actually a real sweet guy
You drove into it with your truck last night, didn't you?
I don't know what happened but be careful.
Lyn . . .
Please let my stupid brother be happy.
I will . . .
I
Tap

Darn it!
Bang
Bang
Bang
Ashley
Sigh
Bang
Bang
Shuffle

Sigh
It's been 4 months but I can't get her out of my mind
"You'll stay by my side"
I told you I would
What was that night?
Just a bit of fun for you?
Why did you leave? Where did you go?

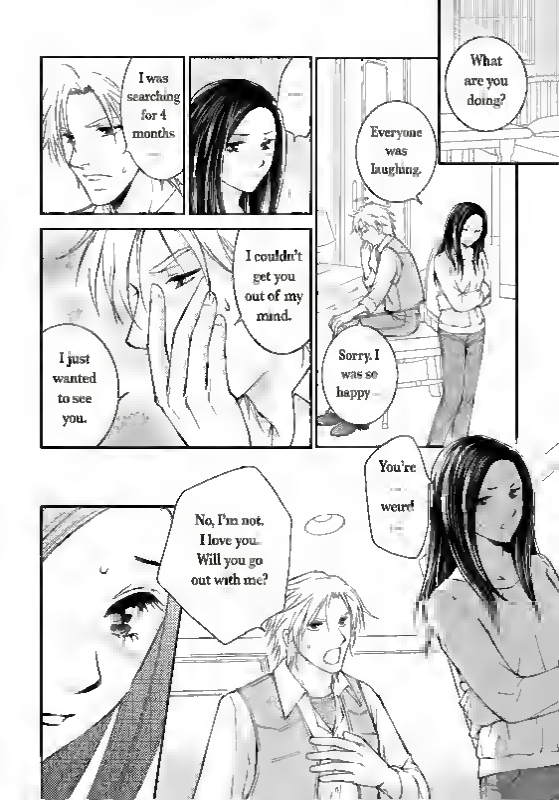
Darn
I'm really into her!
If there's something you gotta
Take a break, Ryder
Huh?
You're no good to me like this.
Er

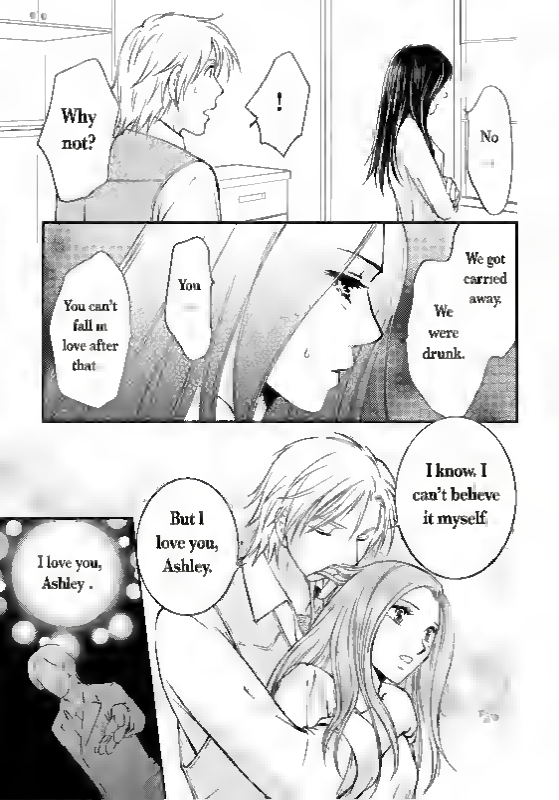
Ashley!
Excuse me.
'kay
DRUG
Urgh
So about these pills you gave me.
Just morning sickness.
Is Rachel okay?
Did you find out where they came from? It's my only clue!
Ha ha. Thanks.
Wow! Congrats!
She's pregnant?

This is an article from 4 months ago.
An oil tycoon!
They were issued in San Antonio to Ashley Bennet.
Daughter of the oil tycoon, Jacob Bennet.
Bennet Daughter Disappears Before Wedding!
Ashley!
Is that why you left Ashley?
You should have talked to me about it.
Where are you ..?
Ashley!
She must have been forced into this marriage
Ran away
Maybe it was an arranged marriage

BETH'S DINER
Hamburger, fried egg and orange juice!
Slam
Hi, there
Sure
Ashley, this, too.
Ryder!
!

Stomp
ドカ
Stomp
ドカ
Stomp
ドカ
....
I finally found you! My beloved Ashley!
Slam
ハンッ
Grab
ガシッ
!
Oh
....


What are you doing?
Everyone was laughing.
Sorry. I was so happy
I couldn't get you out of my mind.
I just wanted to see you.
I was searching for 4 months
You're weird
No, I'm not. I love you. Will you go out with me?


Why not?
!
No
You can't fall in love after that
You
We got carried away. We were drunk.
I know. I can't believe it myself.
But I love you, Ashley.
I love you, Ashley.

Ashley
Anyway I'm not going out with you.
What's wrong?
Martin...
It was only one night but we were hot for each other
Thud
"You'll stay by my side? Stay with me here forever." That's what you said.
Ryder!
Blush
Wh-What!
I can't forget it.
You held my hand, batted those puppy-dog eyes,
and said, "Don't leave me."

I... wasn't myself that night.
I didn't mean it!
That's a lie, honey. You were lonely.
I know you weren't just having a bit of fun.
Since you chose me as your first guy.
First?
You were a virgin, right?
!!!
Go away! Never come here again!
Slap
Ouch

No, I want to know you more.
Grab
...
?
What! Again?
Urgh
Shake
...
Drugs?
Are you drunk?
Splash
Splash
...
Shake
Shake
Are you sick?

Then, why
"Just morning sickness"
Flinch
. Is it. . morning sickness?
Are you pregnant?
...
Is it...
My child?

Daddy
Yes.
It is. .
ピクン
jerk
Daddy!
Daddy!
If you want something, tell your nanny. I am busy

Don't worry, I won't bother you.
I won't ask you to be a father
Children are such a burden.

So you can go—
My baby!
!
Yes! This is awesome!
Thank you, Ashley! I am so happy!
...
Squeeze
チュウウッ

I won't marry you! I'm bringing up this baby on my own!
Pull
We've got to get married!
No.
The wedding can wait. I've got to introduce you to my family...
I will give it plenty of love. Don't get in my way!
...
It's my baby
But it's my child

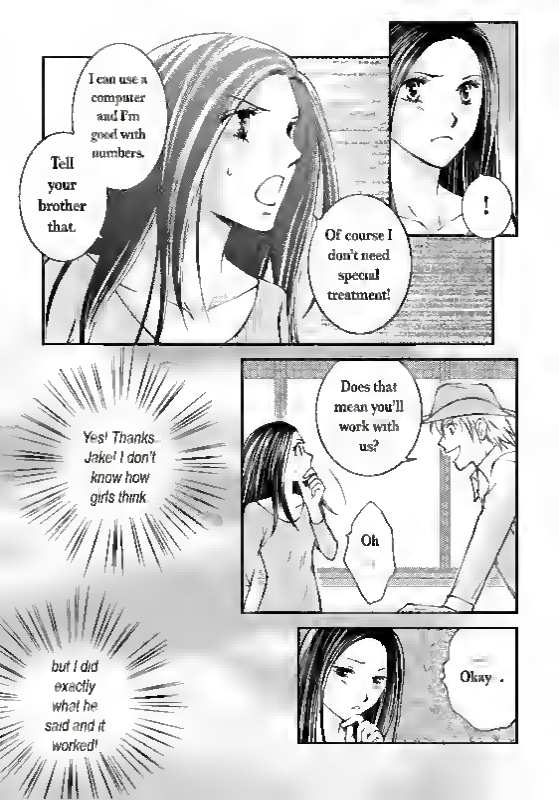
Slump
ガックリ..
Ashley
He's useless again
I want to look after horses! I keep telling you!
And your job?
Hire someone!
I...
!
Jake! I'll look after the horses instead of Ryder!
You're our accountant.

I want to ask you a favor.
ガターン
Slam
Jake!
BETH'S DINER
Slam
...
I need to talk to you.
What?
I'm busy. If you're not going to order, leave.
Ashley!

Steak
Huge
Munch
Munch
Munch
Fine, give me your biggest steak
Thanks
Tap
Urgh
Bang
Bang
Bang
An accounting job with free room and board?

...
Sounds great but...
Yeah.
Who's hiring?
McCall Farm. My family's farm.
I've got work to do.
Wa-Wa-Wait!
Clank
Wait, Ashley! Think about it!
I did think about it. No.
Grrr

You're going to ignore my wish to support you and our baby?
So you're not going to even let me hold my child?
If you were close, I could help you.
...
I don't want you to hire me out of pity.
My brother said –
You will have to do your work properly
It's not pity. We need an accountant.
We won't give her special treatment.
We'll try her out but if she's no good, she'll have to go


I can use a computer and I'm good with numbers.
Tell your brother that.
Of course I don't need special treatment!
!
Does that mean you'll work with us?
Oh
Okay .
Yes! Thanks Jake! I don't know how girls think
but I did exactly what he said and it worked!

Yes.
Is this all you have?
Right, let's go.
Slam
Do you like horses?
I've only seen pictures.
I don't know.
Vroooom...

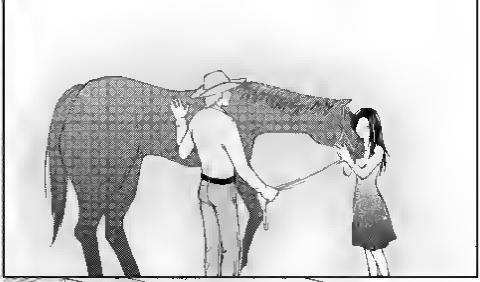
You don't ride?
My father wouldn't let me.
A bit over-protective.
... Not really
Did you have a curfew?
Yes.
You broke curfew!
But it was my friend's birthday party
Don't talk back!
Iris, lock Ashley up for a while.
You can't leave this weekend
Yes
Daddy!
Ashley, you must listen to your father
Daddy
Ashley.

That's the farm.
We're here.
Ashley ?
!!

Wow!
It's huge!
Ryder! Look!
Horses...
There are horses!
Our parents left it to us. We're really

Screech
キキッ
Shall we go closer?
This is Brace.
He's huge...
Hi? A horse?
Yeah.
He's just saying hi.
Neigh
H-hi, Brace. I'm Ashley. Nice to meet you
Eek!

Shake
Touch him.
Wh...
So warm
He's so gentle. I'm surprised.
I guess he likes pretty girls, too.
Brace usually gets nervous with new people. I've never seen him so calm.
Me, too.



Hey! I brought Ashley!
This is my home. Come in.

L-Lyn
What?
Why are you...
Flinch
Glare
Ryder
Er.
Smile
Welcome, Ashley!
So good to meet you!
I'm Lyn!
Slam

My brother Jake.
Welcome, Ashley.
Hi, I'm Dieck.
Nice to have such a pretty girl in the house.
Hi
N-nice to meet you, too.
Hey! What the...
Snigger
You must be tired. Rest today and you can start work tomorrow.
Thank you.
I'll show you your room.
Click

So cute!
Lyn's taste.
She looks like you a lot.
And your brother
Ryder
Thanks for coming
Welcome to the McCall family, Ashley.

I didn't come here for you...
I just wanted a new job.
I know.
But I'm still happy
Thanks.
...
Ashley, Ryder
Dinner!
It's a feast tonight!
Lyn! Ketchup!
I guess you'll just have to get used to it
Oh, no
Don't you think? But don't expect this every day. It's the best I can do. I hope you won't be disappointed with tomorrow's dinner!

Yeah!
Let's eat!
Get it yourself! Who do you think you are?
Don't mind her. She's always like that.
Ashley, are you sure you're happy with Ryder?
Our parents died 13 years ago and it was hard to keep the farm going.
Ryder was great with horses, second only to Dad.
You know he used to skip school all the time.
Huh?
Work
I was working here instead!

Dieck!
Because he wants to look cool in front of Ashley.
Why?
Lyn, don't you mean I am the best? Not second to anyone.
Ahem
Sorry Ryder's such an idiot.
Ashley.
...
Lyn!
Giggle
Do you always eat dinner together like that?

Yeah, usually we do.
Hmm
It's so nice.
Really?
I wish I had siblings, too
If you marry me, you get 2 brothers and a sister
!
Pull

ゴホン!
Ahem
Ryder!
Dodge
Let go, Ryder...
Don't run from me, honey.
Well, I'm going to bed.
Y-yeah. Night!

Input here.
Look carefully at the receipt.
Okay.
You all set?
Let me know if you get stuck
Yeah, I can do it from here.
Bang
Check?

Ryder fell off his horse!
!!
He hit his head and he's unconscious . .

Ashley!

...
Mm
...
What happened again?
Huh?
I fell off my horse and...
Oh, yeah!

I'm such a dork! How could I fall off? How many years have I been riding?
Lyn's going to laugh at me.
They'll tease me that I was thinking about Ashley...
Well I was thinking about Ashley...
So what?
Ow! My back!
A
Ashley!

Ashley
カアア…
Blush
Ashley
Was she worried?

Mar
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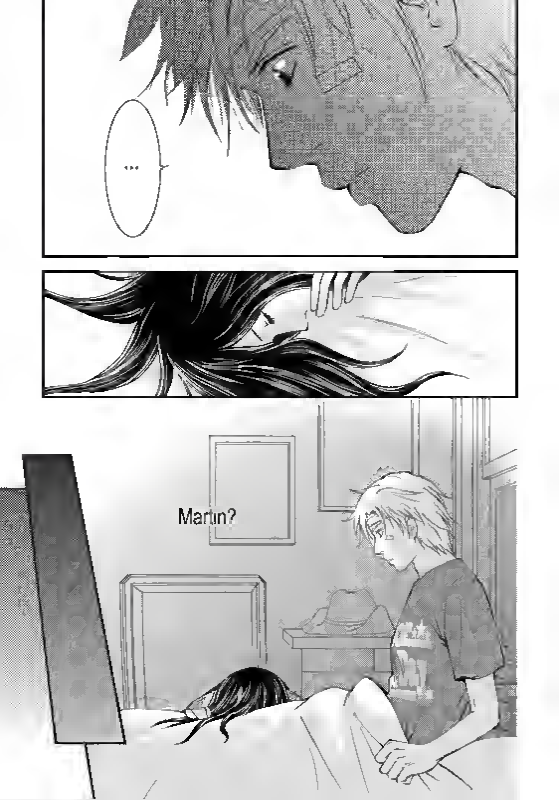
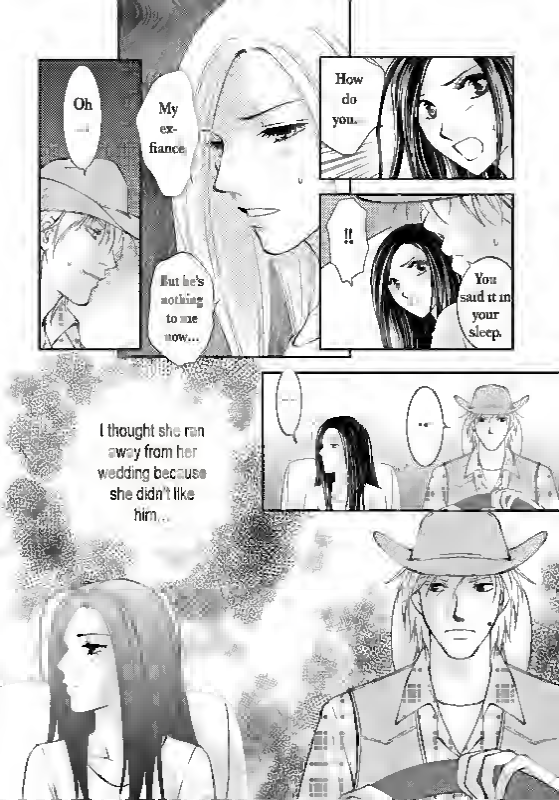

...
Martin?

Going for a checkup ?
You should buy some maternity clothes, too.
You'll burst out of those clothes soon
Yeah.
Vroom
Bye!
Huh ?
Dieck.

Yeah.
I think Ashley will make Ryder happy.
Er.
Who's Martin?
!!
"Martin..."

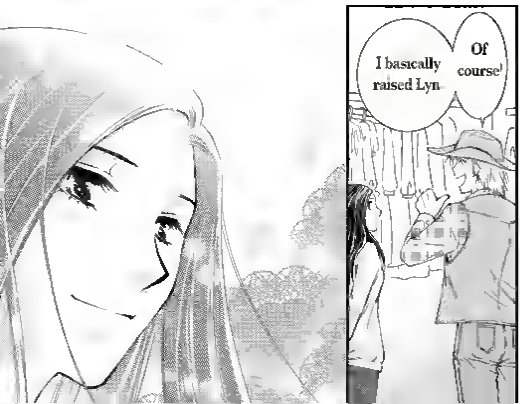

How do you...
!!
You said it in your sleep.
Oh...
My ex-fiance.
But he's nothing to me now...
I thought she ran away from her wedding because she didn't like him...

They're tiny!
Glow
Maternity & Baby
Ry-der.
Look.
Mm?

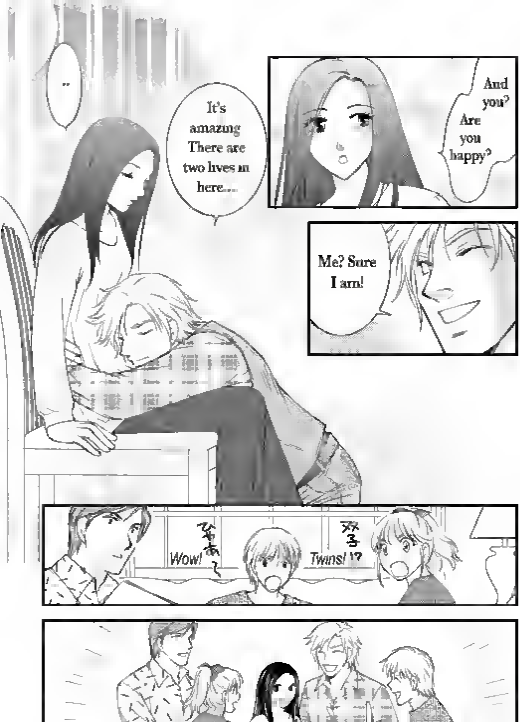
I think she's lost. She won't say anything.
Oh, dear
Hey, honey. Don't cry, pretty darlin'
I'm Ryder McCall. What's your name?
Ryder, she's not going to...
Chrissy.
All right, Chrissy.
Let's go find your mom.
!
You're tickling me, Chrissy!

Chrisy's mom.
I was so worried...
Why did you run off?
Chrisy!
!
She was real scared.
Don't you wanna hug her first?
Mama.
I'm sorry
...

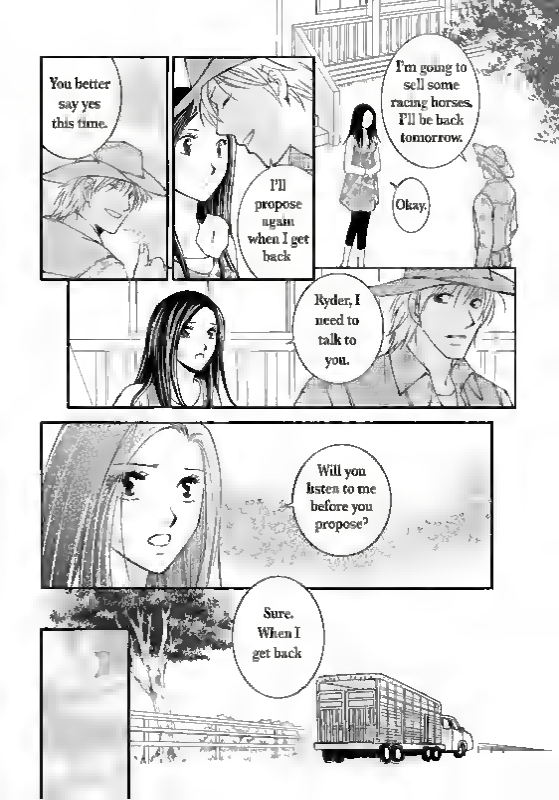
No.
What? Is there something on my face?
I just thought You'll be a good dad..


I basically raised Lyn.
Of course!

Twins?
What!
Congratulations.
Yes, for sure.
They're healthy, too.
You think?
I bet everyone will be thrilled.
Twins! What a surprise!
Yeah! One is great but two is awesome!


..
It's amazing There are two lives in here....
And you? Are you happy?
Me? Sure I am!
Wow!
Twins! !?

Neigh
Neigh


You better say yes this time.
I'll propose again when I get back
I'm going to sell some racing horses. I'll be back tomorrow.
Okay.
Ryder, I need to talk to you.
Will you listen to me before you propose?
Sure. When I get back

BETH'S DINE
See ya.
I'll be back in the afternoon. Look after Ashley
Yeah, we got a good price.
Creak
Your biggest steak!
He's not from around here
Munch
Munch
Munch
Huge steak

Expensive suit
Not a local
?
What ?
Do you know this woman?

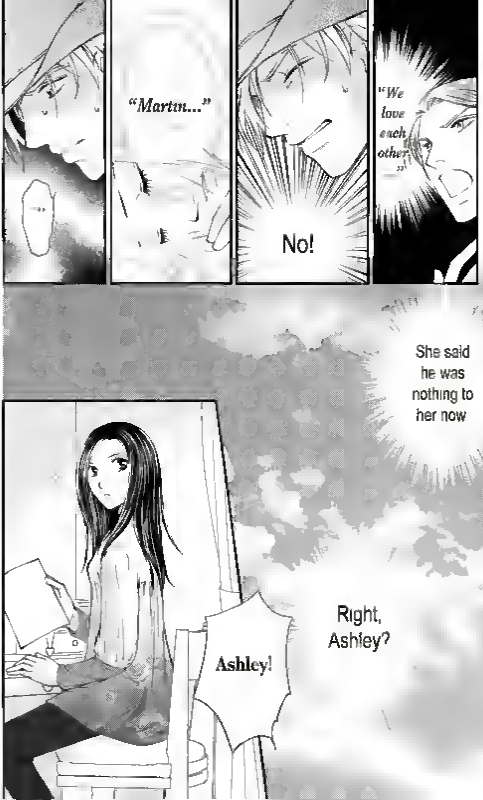
Ashley!
Martin!
Fiancé?
I'm Ashley's fiance.
My name is Martin Edward Corrus, Jr.
Who—
Was this guy sent by her father?

Then I will call the police.
No.
Give her back to me.
Ashley's staying with you, am I correct?
She dumped you. Get over it!
Anyway, she ran away from marrying you.
Ashley is at my house because she wants to be.
Trouble?
We just had a bit of trouble and she is angry about that.
We love each other
Smirk
You have no idea.
Grr

Don't you get it?
Smirk
And so she lost interest.
Anyway, she doesn't love you anymore
She thought I cheated on her
She just got jealous.
That's why she got jealous.
She loves me.
Would she be angry if she didn't love me?
She loves me so much she can't forgive me.
She's still angry That's why she won't come back.

Ha! Whatever
Clank
Grab
...
"Martin ..."
Get your hands off me!
Pull
I need her.
Where is she?
Let me see her.

We love each other!
Don't get in our way!
Shut up! I...
I love her a hundred times more than you do!
What is with that guy!
What's with all the confidence?


"Martin..."
No!
"We love each other..."
She said he was nothing to her now
Right, Ashley?
Ashley!

I love you! Let's get married now!
R-Ryder?
Wait. What's wrong?
We'll go to the registry office now!
Nothing! Just marry me!
Ryder! Calm down! Listen!
Weren't you going to let me talk first?
Oh... yeah... That's right...

My mother died, and my new stepmom was cold.
No one loved me...
I thought no one would ever love me.
Then one day, my father brought a man home
I love you.
My dad, Jacob Bennet,
was a man with no interest in children.

That was Martin.
You're going to marry this man
I love you, Ashley. I'll take care of you.
He said he loved me...
He was kind to me...
Being told I was loved for the first time... I was so happy...
But you didn't love him back, right?
He became my everything.

But on the day of our wedding ...
He betrayed me.
"Don't get in our way."
"We love each other."
!
I loved him, and innocently trusted him
I was so angry
I couldn't believe anything.
I ran out of the house.

"That's why she got jealous."
"She loves me."
No.
Not for the rest of my life...
You still can't forgive him?
"She loves me so much she can't forgive me."
"She's still angry. That's why she won't come back."
For the rest of...
I get it...
I.. see...

Actually, I met Martin today...
She only ever loved Martin
?
Okay
Ha ha
That's why you won't marry me...
It was never going to work
How could you have met Martin?
What are you talking about?
He said he still loved you...
What!
He wanted you back.
Why don't you go back to him?

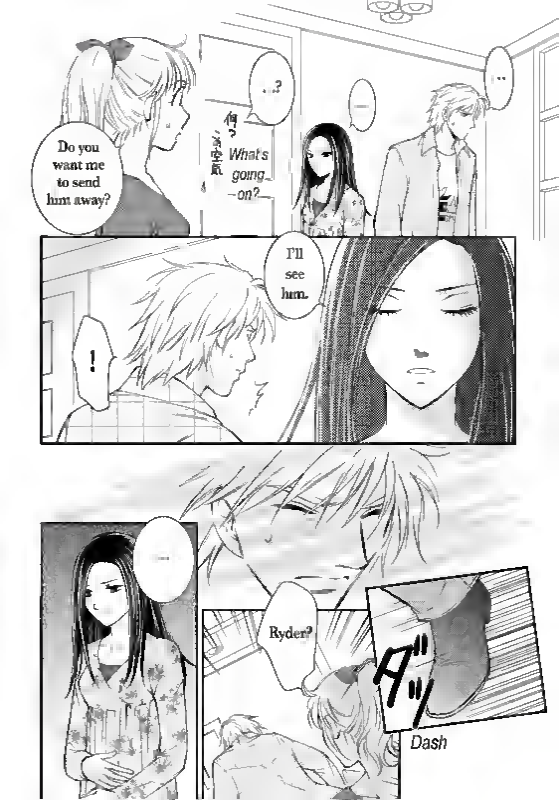
11
Are you being serious?
Yeah. It would be for the best.
Ryder! I...
Stop talking! I feel like I'm going to cry!

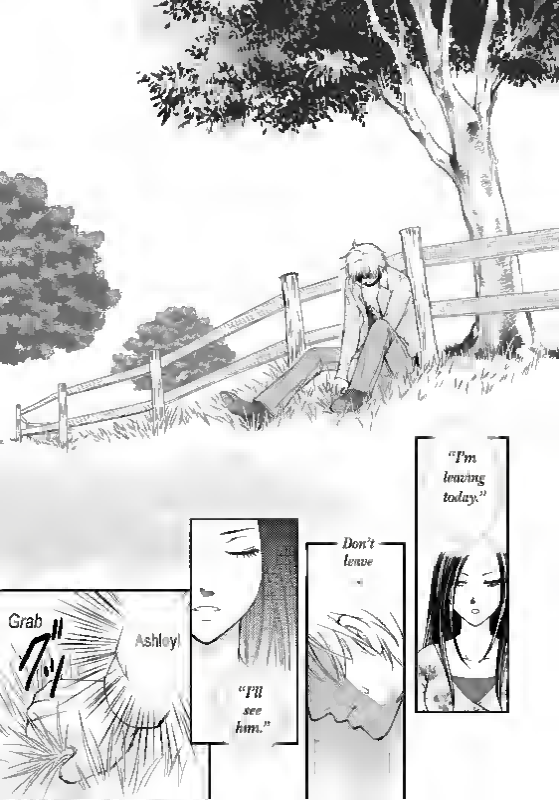
Ryder!
Ryder!
it doesn't matter.
This is fine

Ashley!
Stupid Ryder...
That's not what I wanted to say.

Click
M. . Morning, Ashley.
Hi.
I'm leaving today.
What!

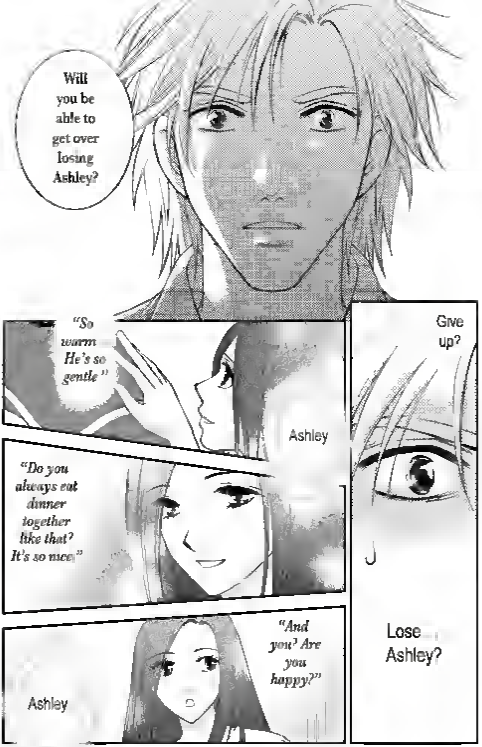
...
Going back to Martin
Oh... Okay
You're not even going to try to stop me.
Huh?
There's someone here for Ashley.
A guy called Martin
!!


..?
What's going-on?
何？
Do you want me to send him away?
..
—
I'll see him.
!
—
Ryder?
Dash

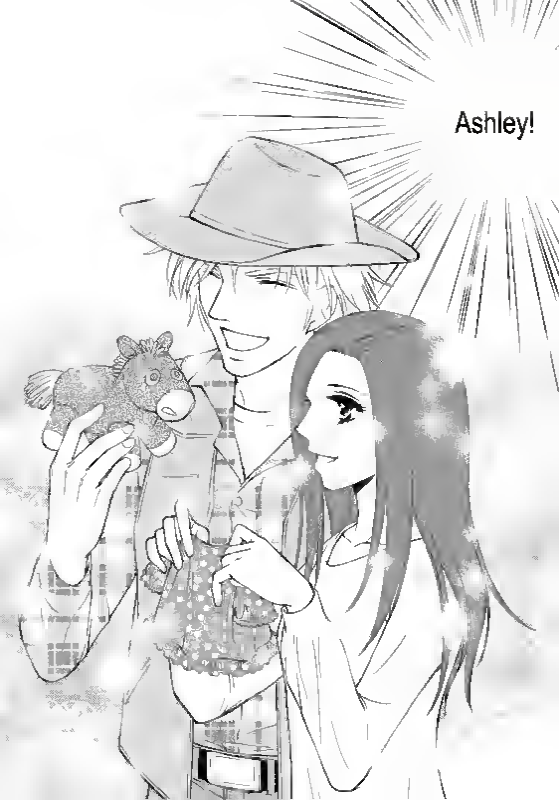

"I'm leaving today."
Don't leave
"I'll see him."
Grab
Ashley!

"Why don't you go back to him?"
Ahhhh!
Such an idiot!
I'm an idiot!
You're not wrong there.

What can I do?
She loves someone else.
I wanted to see your children, too. It's a shame.
Jake!
And you're giving up just because of that?
You really think that?
Like with Ariel?


Will you be able to get over losing Ashley?
"So warm He's so gentle"
Ashley
"Do you always eat dinner together like that? It's so nice"
"And you? Are you happy?"
Ashley
Give up?
Lose Ashley?

"Stay with me here forever?"
"Don't leave me alone..."


Ashley!

...
I missed you, Ashley.

No...
Did you forget what you did?
I'm sorry I hurt you.
Please forgive me.

I will never make you unhappy again.
Let's go back together.
How much
When you left, I realized...
how much you meant to me.
I would rather die than not marry you.
You are so dear to me.

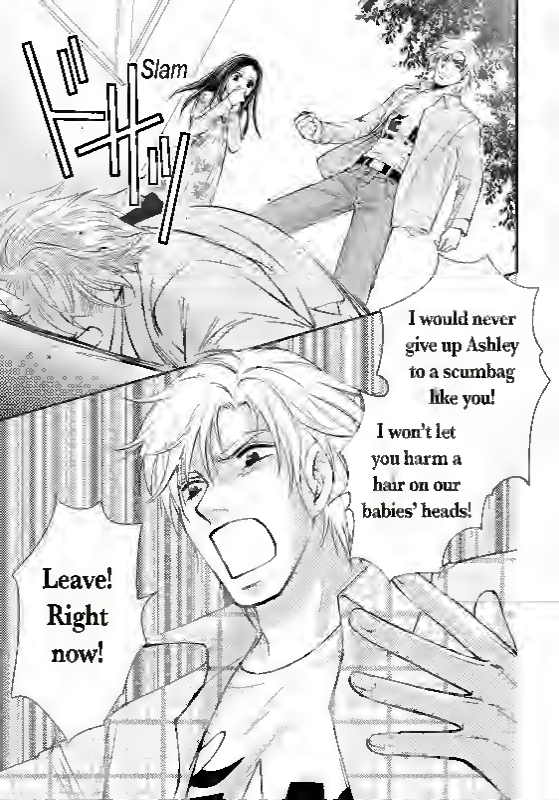
Pull
Ashley?
You cannot be serious!
Ashley, I love you.
I'm proposing to you again
Marry me.

You must know!
Inside me...
What do you mean? I love you, so I am asking you to marry me. What's wrong with that?
Martin!
Ash ley
You're worried about being pregnant
Yes...I can't say I wasn't shocked...
But...
That won't make me love you less.
Martin

What do you mean?
But the babies will be born ..
No, they won't.
We can keep it a secret.
I'll make sure of it.
Don't worry about a thing.
Your father will be angry, of course.
But leave it to me.

You're going to have an abortion.

ガッ
Wham


Slam
I would never give up Ashley to a scumbag like you!
I won't let you harm a hair on our babies' heads!
Leave! Right now!

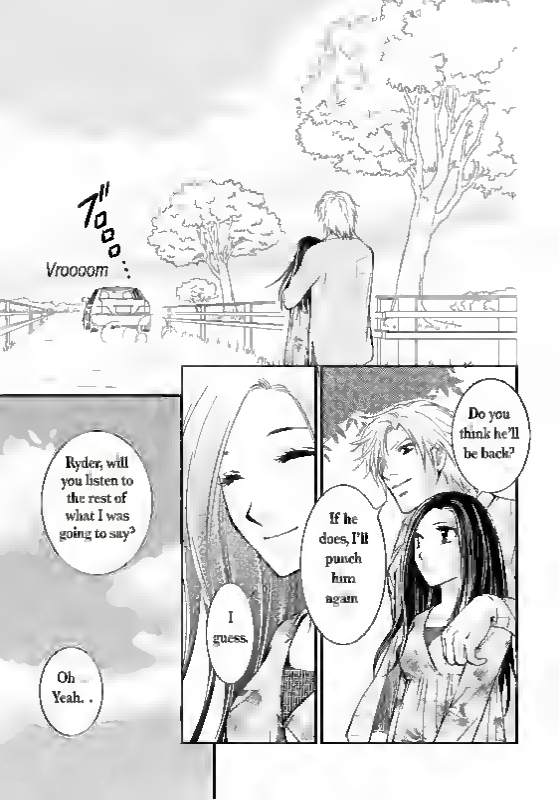
...
Ryder
...
Did you see that?
You can't marry such a barbaric man
Your father will never allow it.
But...
You're right...

I love this barbaric man.

Get out of my sight, right now.

Think about this!
Be reasonable, Ashley!
Flush
I cannot let him have you. .
I love you!
I am more suitable for the Bennet family!
Martin.
I see that you really do love the daughter of the Bennet family.
But I'm afraid,

My name is Ashley McCall.
Grind


Vroooom
Do you think he'll be back?
If he does, I'll punch him again
I guess.
Ryder, will you listen to the rest of what I was going to say?
Oh... Yeah..

Yeah.
and I ran out of the house.
I saw Martin cheating on me,
and got drunk in a bar
I stayed in a motel,
There, I met a man...

He was some arrogant cowboy who told me
girls like me shouldn't be in bars like that.
...
Er...
But he said...
he would stay with me.

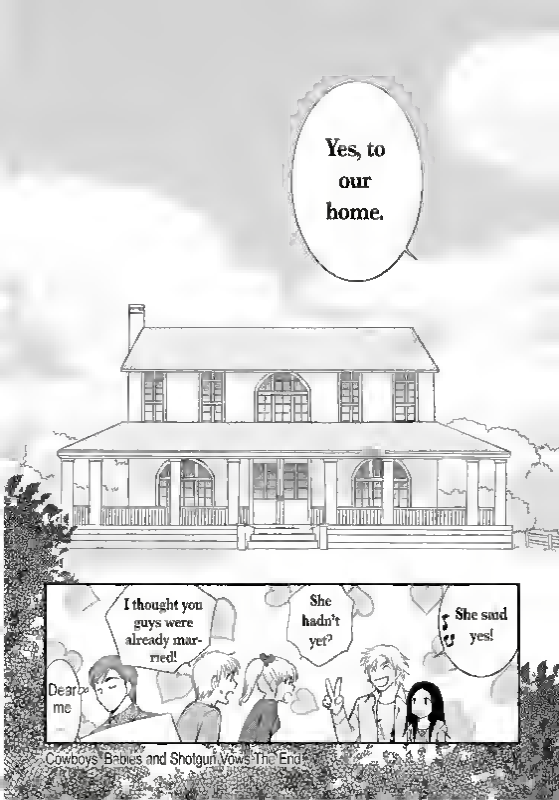
"I won't leave you alone..."

From that moment,
I've been in love with that man.
I'll stay by your side... My sweet Ashley...

I love you, Ryder
You, our babies, your family.
I want to be with you forever

Of course!
Wow!
Of course, Ashley!
Awesome!
Awesome!
Awesome!

Shall we go home?
To our home?


Yes, to our home.
Dear me
I thought you guys were already married!
She hadn't yet?
She said yes!

HARLEQUIN

Cowboys, Babies and Shotgun Vows

Art by Yoshiko Hanatsu © 2009

Original novel by Shirley Rogers

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